

## Art Detectives America after the Fall

Find *New York-Paris No. 3* (1931)  
in room 1: **New York**

**Stuart Davis** believed that American art could use foreign influences and still remain distinctively American. In this artwork, he arranges buildings, furniture and signs in a lively pattern that makes you think about life in the city.



### Look

What types of buildings can you see?  
What types of furniture?

Look at how the painting is arranged.

- What colours and shapes are repeated?
- What makes the painting look flat, like a cartoon?

### Draw

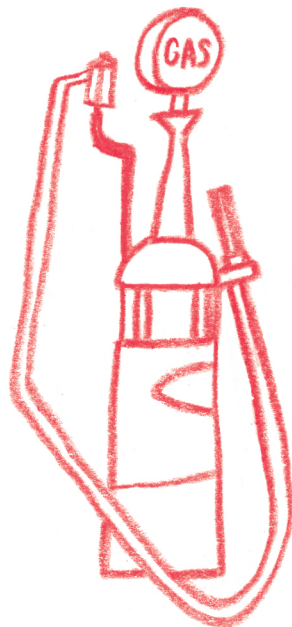
Make a sketch of the painting  
in your sketchbook.

Remember to include all the objects!  
Be sure to sketch the petrol pumps.



### In your sketchbook

Make a drawing of buildings and places  
in your neighbourhood.  
Arrange the buildings in a lively  
arrangement that gives an impression  
of the atmosphere of the place  
where you live.



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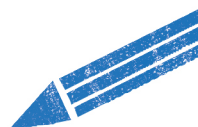
Find *Street Life, Harlem* (1939) by  
William H. Johnson in room 1: **City Life**

William H. Johnson studied the people who lived around him in Harlem, a neighbourhood in New York City. He created vivid paintings of people out and about in the city. Notice how Johnson uses black lines to outline the buildings, people and clothes.



### Look

Describe the people in the painting.  
What are they wearing?  
What kind of clothes are these?  
Where are they? What time of day is it?  
What colours do you see?



### Draw

While you are at the exhibition, use this painting as inspiration and draw a quick sketch of a family member or friend who has come to the Royal Academy with you.



### In your sketchbook

When you get home, use colour (crayons, markers, coloured pencils, or paint) to fill in the outlines and create a brightly coloured painting in your sketchbook.



## Art Detectives America after the Fall

Find *Thanksgiving* (1935) by Doris Lee  
in room 2: **Looking to the Past**

Thanksgiving is an American holiday in late November that celebrates the nation and the harvest. Here, Doris Lee shows a family in the kitchen of an ordinary house as the women and girls are preparing the festive, traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Doris Lee made this painting in the middle of the Great Depression, when many families did not have enough to eat.



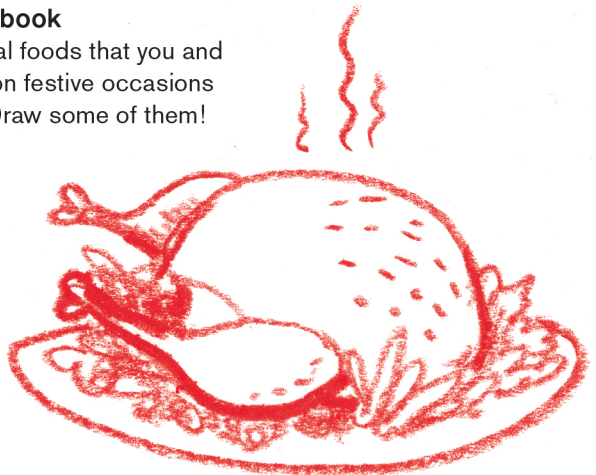
### Look

What will the family eat for Thanksgiving dinner?  
What are the children in the painting doing?  
If you were in this kitchen, what would you like to do?



### In your sketchbook

What are special foods that you and your family eat on festive occasions and holidays? Draw some of them!



## Art Detectives America after the Fall

Find *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* (1931)  
by Grant Wood in room 2: **Looking to the Past**

In 1775, on the eve of the American Revolution, the silversmith Paul Revere rode to towns in Massachusetts warning the people that the British soldiers were coming. This event, part historical event, part legend, was made more famous by a poem, *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*, which was published in 1861. Grant Wood painted this painting in 1931 and set it in his native Iowa, in the middle of the United States.



### Find

Can you find Paul Revere on his horse riding through the town?  
Can you find the people coming out of their houses?  
Where are you as you look at this scene?



### In your sketchbook

Think about your favourite story.  
Choose one scene and draw it as if you were up above, like a bird, looking down at the scene.





## Art Detectives America after the Fall

Find Gas by Edward Hopper (1940)  
in room 1: **Industrial Life**

**Edward Hopper worked in a realist style.  
He often painted people who look lonely.**



### Look

Imagine you are the man in this painting  
of a gas (petrol) station on a lonely country road.

What are you doing?

What is your job?

What is the time of day? How do you know?

How would you feel?

What mood does the artist create  
in this painting?

### Write

In your sketchbook write as many words  
as you can to describe this painting.



### In your sketchbook

Write a poem or a story about this painting  
and put that story in your sketchbook  
and illustrate it.

## Art Detectives America after the Fall

Find *Indian Composition, No. 6* (1932) by George L. K. Morris in room 3: **Looking to the Future**

George L. K. Morris believed that American artists should look to the ancient, native traditions in their own country. He studied the designs of Native American art and used their designs in his paintings. He did not like art that told a story, like Grant Wood's, so he created abstract paintings like *Indian Composition No. 6*.



### Look

Look at the painting and find shapes

- with a birch-bark pattern
- that look like arrows
- that look like bear claws or teeth

### Think

What does this painting remind you of?

What title would you give it?

In this exhibition you have seen paintings that tell stories. This is an abstract painting of colours, shapes and lines.

Which do you prefer and why?